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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF CHARLTON KINGS.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

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LIBRARY

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health:

STEPHEN KNIGHT
M.B., B.S.(Lond), M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

F.A. MIDDLETON
(part-time)

CHARLTON KINGS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health of the District for 1948.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population, 5,919, is down by a trifle (less than 100 persons) compared with the previous year.

The Birth Rate, 16.7 per 1,000 of the population, is again below the rate, 17.9, for the County as a whole but in contrast with the latter is a small increase on the previous year.

The Death Rate, 13.0 per 1,000 of the population, is higher than the national rate of 10.8.

The slightly lower birth rate and higher death rate is due to a higher proportion of elderly people in Charlton Kings than in the country as a whole.

The infantile death rate, 50 per 1,000 live births, is somewhat high compared with the general rate, 34 per 1,000 live births, for England and Wales. Owing to the very small numbers involved, a total of only five infant deaths, a single death makes a great difference in the rate for the district.

The infantile Death Rate is often regarded as a delicate index reflecting the well being of a community.

The incidence of infectious disease during the year was very slight, the few cases being chiefly of the less severe varieties, such as measles and whooping cough. There was no diphtheria and the cases of scarlet fever were of a mild type.

The continued and remarkable decline in the incidence of all forms of infectious disease is due to improvements in hygiene and sanitation. These factors, together with mass immunisation, have led to the elimination of diphtheria, at least in so far as this District is concerned.

Fifty-six houses have been built since the war, forty of these were occupied during the year and permission was given by the Ministry of Health for work to start on another twelve houses. There remain 230 families in need of adequate housing.

The acute shortage of houses makes it impossible to take action under the demolition Sections of the Housing Act, 1936 against some fifty houses which are regarded as totally unfit. First aid repairs are carried out to these houses in order to make them more habitable. In the case of thirteen houses the Council were able to accept an undertaking from the owner to carry out a scheme of reconstruction and reconditioning.

A number of talks on health subjects were given during the year to various local organisations.

The Council accepted a proposal of the County Council that the District Medical Officer of Health should be appointed a Divisional Medical Officer of Health of the County Council for services under the National Health Service Act, 1946. This appointment will be of material benefit to both authorities and facilitate an effective liaison.

The Divisional Health Office is at Lexham Lodge, Copt Elm Road, Charlton Kings.

I desire to thank members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, and my colleagues for their loyal co-operation on all occasions.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1949.

CHARLTON KINGS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Charlton Kings for the year 1948.

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres	3,399.
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident population - mid 1948	5,919.
Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1948) according to Rate Books	1,735.
Rateable Value, March 1949.	£41,439.
Sum represented by a penny rate	£166.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1948.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	94.	53.	41.
Illegitimate	5.	3.	2.
Total	99.	56.	43.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population ... 16.7

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	9.	8.	1.
Illegitimate	1.	1.	-
Total	10.	9.	1.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population ... 1.7

DEATHS.	77.	36.	41.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population ... 13.0

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
No. 30 Other Maternal Causes	Nil.	Nil.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.
(Infantile Death Rate).

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	5.	3.	2.
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	5.	3.	2.

All INFANTS per 1,000 Live Births ... 50.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The principal causes of death were:-

Disease.	Male.	Female.
Typhoid & Para. Fevers	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis - Respiratory System	1.	1.
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1.	-
Syphilitic Diseases	-	-
Influenza	-	1.
Measles	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis etc.	-	-
Polio-Encephalitis	-	-
Acute Infect. Encephalitis	-	-
Cancer (Bucc. Cav.) (Oesophagus (M)) (Uterus (F))	-	1.
Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	-	-
Cancer of Breast	-	2.
Cancer of Other Sites	3.	4.
Diabetes	-	2.
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	3.	3.
Heart Disease	19.	13.
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2.	1.
Bronchitis	-	1.
Pneumonia	1.	3.
Other Respiratory Diseases	1.	1.
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	-	-
Diarrhoea under two years of age	-	1.
Appendicitis	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases	-	1.
Nephritis	-	1.
Puerperal & Post Abortion Sepsis.	-	-
Other Maternal Causes	-	-
Premature Birth	-	-
Congenital Malformation - Birth Injuries Infantile Disease, etc.	2.	1.
Suicide	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents	1.	-
Other Violent Causes	1.	1.
Total carried forward	35.	38.

Causes of Death (continued)

	Male.	Female.
Total Bt. fwd.	35.	38.
All other Causes	1.	3.
TOTAL	36.	41.

Total both Male & Female - 77.

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS.

	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	17.9	19.3	15.5	16.1	15.4	16.7
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	13.5	11.8	12.2	13.3	16.0	13.0
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) (Deaths of Infants under one year)	66.0	70.0	23.0	52.0	54.0	50.0

FOR COMPARISON, THE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC. ARE GIVEN BELOW.

	England & Wales.	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns.	County of Gloucester-shire.	Charlton Kings U. D. C.
Live Births	17.9	20.0	17.9	16.7
Still Births (per 1,000 population)	0.42	0.52	-	1.7
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	10.8	11.6	10.7	13.0
Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths of Infants under 1 year). (Per 1,000 Live Births).	34.0	39.0	30.4	50.0
Deaths under 2 years of age from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (per 1,000 Live Births).	3.3	4.5	-	10.0

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

1. INFECTIOUS DISEASES, OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

General Statistics.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year.

Diseases.	Under 1 yr.		1 - 5.		5 - 15.		15 - 25.		25 and upwards.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1.	1.	3.	-	-	1.	-	2.	4.
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	3.	3.	-	2.	-	-	-	-	3.	5.
Measles.	-	1.	1.	4.	1.	1.	-	-	-	-	2.	6.
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.	2.	-	2.	3.
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.	-	1.
Cerebro Spinal F.	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.	-.
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2. TUBERCULOSIS.

The following cases were notified during the year:

	Children.		All Persons.
	0 - 4.	5 - 14.	
Tuberculosis Notifications, 1948:			
Pulmonary	-	-	5.
Non-Pulmonary			
(1) Glands	-	-	-
(2) Bone & Joint	-	-	-
(3) Abdomen	-	-	-
(4) Other Organs	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-
Tuberculosis Deaths, 1948;			
Pulmonary	-	-	2.
Non-Pulmonary			
(1) Glands	-	-	-
(2) Bone & Joint	-	-	-
(3) Abdomen	-	-	-
(4) Other Organs	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-

The number of cases on the Register, 31st December, 1948, were as follows:

Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			All Forms.
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Total.
17.	6.	23.	13.	4.	17.	40.

3. FOOD POISONING.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The total number of children immunised against diphtheria is now 956, some 77% compared with 73% last year and the target figure of 75%. Each year the percentage of treated children continues to rise, a tribute of the response of parents to the immunisation campaign and the reward is to be found in the complete freedom from diphtheria which the District has enjoyed.

During the year 98 children were immunised for the first time and 43 received a maintenance or reinforcing injection on entry to school.

In the face of such a good response it is ungracious to criticise, but there is a tendency to put off immunisation until the baby is older. It is most desirable that a child should be treated at the age of eight months.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of children who have completed a full course of Immunisation up to 31st December, 1948:-

Age at 31/12/48. e.g. born in year	Under 1 yr. 1948.	1. 1947.	2. 1946.	3. 1945.	4. 1944.	5 - 9. 1939/43	10 - 14. 1934/8.	Total under 15.
Number Immunised	12.	73.	60.	43.	70	388	310	956.
Estimated mid-year population, 1948.			444.			789.		1233.

DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS IN RELATION TO IMMUNISATION.

There were no cases and no deaths from diphtheria.

GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance Service is maintained by the County Council and is obtained from Cheltenham Control Station (phone Cheltenham 3112) and in emergency dialing "999" or "0" to the local Exchange and asking for "Ambulance Service".

The Ambulance Service is supplemented by a valuable hospital car service which is available for taking patients to and from

appointments in connection with the National Health Service when public transport is not practicable. Requests for this Service should be made to the Control Station at Cheltenham, giving 48 hours notice of the requirement.

Nursing in the Home.

The area is covered by the District Nursing Association under the control of the Health Committee of the County Council. Information is available from the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Copt Elm Road, Charlton Kings, Telephone No. Cheltenham 3614.

Child Welfare Centre.

Meetings of the Charlton Kings Child Welfare Centre are held in the Baptist Church Hall, Church Street every Tuesday at 2.30 p.m.

Home Help Service.

This new Service, which is organised by the Health Committee of the County Council, has proved to be of great value to the community. The Home Help takes over the running of the home when the housewife is temporarily incapacitated. A charge is made according to a scale of assessment.

Appeals for assistance from the Home Help Service should be made through the Divisional Health Office, North East Area, Council Offices, Copt Elm Road, Charlton Kings or to the Home Help Office, 77 Promenade, Cheltenham (Telephone No. Cheltenham 53121).

WATER SUPPLY.

The Urban District is within the statutory water supply area of the Cheltenham Corporation Water Undertaking. The supply is satisfactory both as regards quantity and quality.

47 houses were connected to the public water mains; 40 new houses and 7 existing houses.

The following table gives the position with regard to a public piped supply:-

Total.		(a) Direct to house.	(b) By standpipe.
1735 No. of houses)	supplied by public mains	1,578.	12.
5919 No. of population)	supplied by public mains	5,523.	42.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

F.A. MIDDLETON.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:

(i)	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	64.
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	179.
(ii)	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	-
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	-
(iii)	Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	27.
(iv)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	51.

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices ... ... -

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers ... ... 13.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year ...

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10. and 16th of the Housing Act, 1936:

(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1.
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:-	
	(a) By Owners	0.
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	1.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs to be remedied	13.
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
	(a) By owners	27.
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	-

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts, 1936:-

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... -

(ii) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... -

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. -

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part 4 - Overcrowding.

(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ... -

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... -

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Cowsheds and Dairies:

Number of visits made to cowsheds and dairies 127.

Bakehouses:

Number of visits made to bakehouses ... ... 25.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS (FACTORIES ACT, 1937).

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:

(a) Number of Factories without mechanical power on register ... ... 98.

(b) Number of Factories with mechanical power on register ... ... 15.
Number of visits to factories ... ... 102.
Number of written notices ... ... 1.
Number of defects found ... ... 1.
Number of defects remedied ... ... 1.

INSPECTION OF FOOD.

The following quantities were found to be unfit for human consumption:

Food ... ... 47½lb.
Eggs ... ... 8 doz.